



# VIRGINIA LAW REVIEW

*A Tradition of Excellence As Proven by The Excellent Journal Award (10 Time Winner)*

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The Official Journal of the University of Virginia School of Law

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## April Fools Disclaimer

Dana Lake '23  
Editor-in-Chief

Well, it's that time of the year. April means the 3Ls are truly on their way out, and finals really are on their way in. Flowers are blooming, masks are off, and the temperature is oscillating wildly between the high twenties and low seventies. The gunner pit sees new 1L additions every day, while 3Ls wonder if they should begin doing class readings now or give it another week. Here in the springtime of our youth, the *Law Weekly* brings you the April Fools edition. April Fools is the edition our editors look forward to above all others (excluding the final edition of the semester, of course) and every article herein is a labor of love with absolutely no factual basis at all.

An astute reader or administrator might wonder how this differs from a regular *Law Weekly* edition. While our editors usually channel their natural wit and sarcasm into investigative pieces and classic beat reporting—rooted, believe it or not, in real world events—April Fools is the time for cutting loose and pushing editorial bounds to their limit. No quotes in any article herein are collected from a real source; no eyewitnesses bore witness to any events described here with any eyes. Think of it as a funnier, cheaper Libel without the surprise professor cameos or aluminum cans rolling around on the floor.

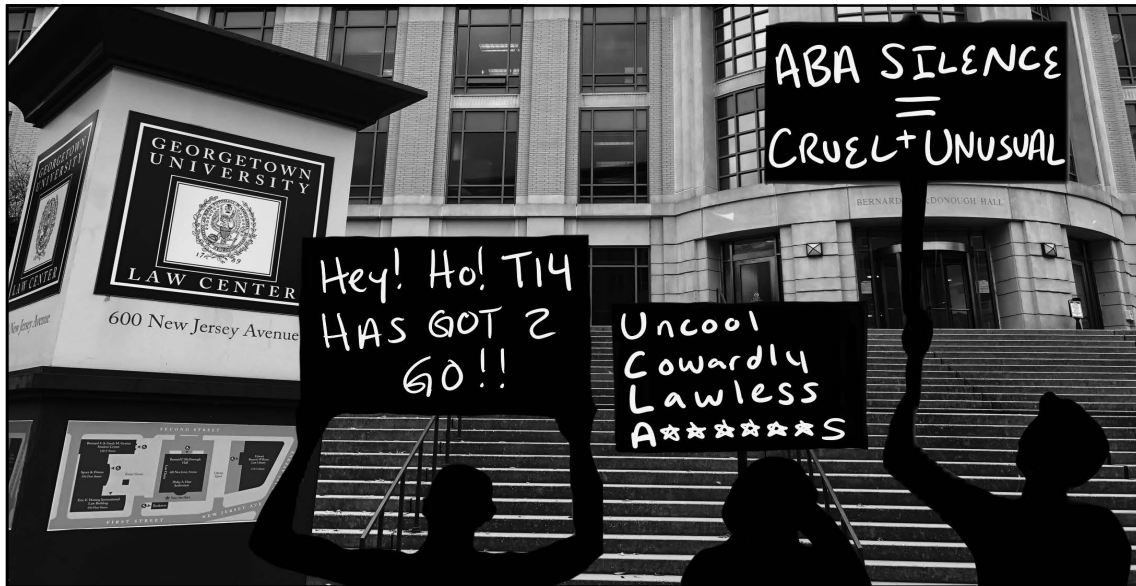
The April Fools edition has run for the last few years and will hopefully continue for many more. Collegiality is something we malign as much as we brag about it, but traditions like this don't happen without a level of basic respect. The *Law Weekly* may poke fun at Student Affairs, FedSoccers, OPP, gunners, the business school, basically every dean, people going into public service, and anyone who doesn't play softball—but we also hope to contribute to a more open and friendly Law School. Don't @ us on Reddit, but please do send in a Letter to the Editor. As the highly personal and mean-spirited dissents in our COPAs demonstrate, we can take it as well as we give it.

Enjoy this brief break from class reading and outlining if you're a gunner, or from Bar Review if you're riding that curve. Either way, we only have a few weeks left. With special thanks to all our editors, who managed to submit their pieces only slightly later than usual while working Libel.

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## Georgetown Bribes Way Back Into T14



### Original Title: Georgetown Petitions to Change T14 to T15

*Editor's Note: This story went to print before the U.S. News & World Report came out on March 28 with updated rankings. You could call it a true April Fools miracle. Enjoy this piece as a testament to a bygone era. Alternatively, wait to read it until next year when the rankings swap again.*

Nikolai Morse '24  
Managing Editor

Following its drop in ranking to #15 in the U.S. News & World Report's 2022 law school rankings, Georgetown's student body has petitioned the American Bar Association to change the "T14" to the "T15." To date, the students have gathered nearly 8,000 signatures, comprised almost exclusively of current and former Georgetown Law students. Student leaders say they are confident they will prevail and that the school's administration is fully behind them. Explaining his support for the move, Dean William Treanor of the Georgetown University Law Center said, "In what world does UCLA—or as I like to call it, Beverly Hills Chihuahua Law—get a bump over us?!? When the students told me their idea, I was 100% supportive."

Noting that the ABA has no authority or relationship at all with the U.S. News & World Report, which publishes the annual school rankings, Reginald M. Turner, Jr., President of the ABA, said Georgetown had been persistent in its pleas. "I just don't know how many times I can repeat myself: we don't control the rankings. And I told them that this whole "T14" thing is made up and they should just make up their own ranking!" said Turner. Student leaders at Georgetown responded that the ABA needs to "pick a side" and warned that "if you're not with us, you're against us."

Asked to comment on the ongoing controversy and on whether there was any value in having a consistent "T14," a spokesperson for U.S. News

& World Report defended their handling of the issue and emphasized the analytical rigor of its ranking system. "We have had a number of internal discussions and are giving this issue our highest attention. However, I would also like to point out that our ranking system considers a range of factors, including direct financial support to important...err... publications," the spokesperson said. When asked to clarify whether U.S. News & World Report was soliciting bribes from law schools in exchange for rankings, the spokesperson chuckled and said, "I'll have to get back to you another time, USC is on the other line. I hear Felicity Huffman's kid is a 2L there—ciao!"

Students at the University of Virginia School of Law were somewhat split on the issue. While some were sympathetic to Georgetown's plight, others gleefully reveled in the situation. Mikolai Morse '24 asked, "For a school that rejected me for undergrad and then again for law school, who's the reject now?" The ever-spicy 2L Class GroupMe was filled with memes referring to Georgetown as a "lesser law school." In contrast to the active student dialogue on the issue, the Law School administration appeared unaware of the controversy. When asked to comment, Dean Risa Goluboff said "Georgetown? Never heard of it."

Other UVA Law students expressed interest in signing the competing "T13" petition, started by students at Cornell Law School. Over a Zoom call, Cornell Law's Student Bar Association Presi-

dent argued that "The reality is it has always been the T13. You guys get it, and as bad as I feel for Georgetown, they've just never really been one of us, you know?" When asked about rumors that other law schools were petitioning for a "T12" specifically to exclude Cornell, Cornell's SBA President began profusely winking and fist-bumping their laptop camera, saying "that's a good one" and "I love when we joke with each other, not like those Georgetown nerds. They just don't get it, amirite?"

Regardless of challenges they face from competing petitions, student leaders of the petition at Georgetown Law have stated their intention to pursue their goal using any methods at their disposal. "We're willing to take this all the way. We'll go to the Supreme Court if we need to!" said Georgetown Law's SBA President. Asked what legal claim they expect to bring that would result in making it to the Supreme Court, the SBA President clarified, "Oh no, I meant that literally. We'll just go over there and talk to them since we're so close, being right in downtown D.C. and all. I mean, we're basically like super close, best friends who are also neighbors. Won't be an issue."

The Press Office for the Supreme Court issued a statement expressing support for "all the truly terrific scholarship coming out of George Mason. Recognition of their success is long, long overdue."

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## In Other News...

*Federalist Society to Institute Lifelong Tithing System*

*Studies Show High Correlation Between Law Weekly Readership And COVID Immunity*

*Administration Finds No Meaningful Differences Between Civ Pro and Employment Discrimination*

*Professor Mitchell Announces Plan to Livestream Class on Instagram for Remainder of Semester*

*Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Goes on Record in Favor Of Audience Participation During Award Shows*

*Op-Ed: Unfunny Professors Deserve to Be Included in Professor Quotes Too*

*Short Course Curve to Be Lowered to B, Clinic Curve Raised to A in Response to Student Whining*

*Spies Garden Renamed Read Garden, Resolves Pronunciation Issue*

*Professor Johnston Scheduled for InfoWars Appearance Next Month, Promises "the Deep State Won't Quiet Me"*

*Libel Show to be Renamed Slander Show to Reflect its Spoken Nature*

*Waynesboro and Pan-tops Chipotles Close Due to Suspected Arson, Leaving Barracks Road Location as Only Chipotle in 50 Miles*

*Law Student No Longer Sure If He is Supposed to be Pro or Anti Mask, Remains Firmly Anti Science*

*Dominion Energy Announces Surcharge for Electricity used After Midnight Weeks of April 30 – May 13, Law Student Responds by Just Giving Up*

*Court finds LRW professors interfered with Legal Writing Fellow Vote to Unionize, New Vote Scheduled for May 1*

*UVA Law Grad Fails C&F for Failing to Disclose Felony Base Stealing During 1L Softball*

*Breaking News: Turns Out Student Affairs Regularly Reads Law Weekly, Editors Mortified*

# Administration Does Something Good (For Once)

Sai Kulkarni '23  
Production Editor



In a surprising turn of events, the *Law Weekly* is happy to report that the school administration has actually conducted itself well this week and done something positive for the student body. Likely due to being lambasted by the Libel Show for being unresponsive to the people that matter most, our wonderful leaders have decided to be benevolent and use the excessive amounts of donor and law firm money to begin providing one free meal a day for students in the Sidley Austin café.

While initially planning to restrict this new policy to the students that demonstrate the most need, swift protest by a combination of wealthy FedSoc denizens and a suspiciously high number of NLG members who believe that their family estates don't generate enough income to cover their meals, the administration reconsidered means testing. The deans just could not stand up in the face of this excellent demonstration of the horseshoe theory live in action. Thus, every student will, much like in an undergrad dining hall, have the ability to swipe their student ID to cover a meal costing up

to eight dollars.<sup>1</sup> The administration chose this specific policy to coincide with the end of the mask mandate—in other words, they've chosen to end their willful blindness to the fact that the “eating and drinking” exception was pushed to its limits within the confines of Scott Commons. With an already existing school cafeteria, the administration expressed very clearly: “If you are going to behave like high school students, it's time you have a high school cafeteria.”<sup>2</sup>

In rolling out this policy, each dean conducted round table discussions with student groups. To everyone's surprise, the Federalist Society actually did not receive a single invitation. As such, the *Law Weekly* looks forward to covering their future event where they can realistically claim, for the first time, that they do not have a voice at the law school. Anyway, in consulting with the other student groups, each

1 That's how much a swipe was at my beloved alma mater, The Ohio State University. In order to make it easier for me to write this article, and solely for that reason, the administration chose this value.

2 Here's the thing, though. Even though they said this, the food at the Sidley Austin Cafe is better than anything we had at my high school. One of the few times the admin being out of touch has helped us.

dean did not express a hard position but rather listened to student input. With rising food insecurity amongst students, combined with the rise in inflation without any source of income for many during the school year, the deans were met with great ideas that actually focused on the same issue—regardless of student group.<sup>3</sup> Upon hearing all of this, the deans reconvened and were able to come up with a comprehensive policy. Their post-meeting email was transparent, well-written, and heavily publicized. The deans then went back to the student groups and encouraged them to put the information into their GroupMes.<sup>4</sup>

Many donors immediately began expressing concern about the new policy. The law school actually serving the students is anathema for them. In all their time as students, the administration focused on their predecessor donors. This is different. And since most of the donors are old, rich, white men, anything different immediately angers them. This is when the most surprising part of this whole saga occurred. Dean Goluboff went against every instinct in her

3 All of the student groups agreed on what the most pressing issue facing the student body is—a true miracle.

4 Only the best communication mechanism, of course.



Picture Credit: restaurantguru.com

body and told the donors to “shove it.” In an email that shocked the world, she asserted that she was going to help her students and that donors were no longer her first priority. This scandalous statement had Law IT scrambling to check if her email was hacked. One of the *Law Weekly's* expert field reporters was able to confirm that Dean Golubuff did indeed send the email.<sup>5</sup>

This was not the end of the shock, however. It turns out that providing an actual proper meal once a day actually brought a majority of the 3L class to North Grounds

5 That field reporter had a panic attack because they thought the world was ending. Thankfully, we were able to help them through it and they are okay now.

for once. On the first day that these meals were being paid for, a number of professors were greeted by people they had not seen in three months. Scott Commons was not only up to peak 1 p.m. capacity, but almost double the usual amount. This policy, unlike every other, actually brought the student body together. Everyone was well-fed for the first time and no one had to scavenge for leftovers from various half-attended student org events. It is rare, but it is great to see the law school administration accomplish something good that actually serves the student body (for once).

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## Common Law Grounds Introduces New Fight Club

Jack Brown '23  
Staff Editor



In an increasingly polarized world, Common Law Grounds has found a primal activity to bring the Law School community back together. Having spent years fruitlessly trying to bring both sides together with excellently catered discussion events, Common Law Grounds has found great success fostering across-the-political-spectrum interactions through a brazenly partisan fight club.

Realizing that coming to a consensus was far less appealing to the masses of law students who can only get serotonin from dunking on their partisan opposites, these fight clubs have be-

come a massive success. Explicitly politically motivated violence is the only way to bring people together in the age of social media.<sup>1</sup>

The format is rather simple: on the first full moon of each month, the membership of ACS, NLG, and the UVA Law Republicans all gather under the sketchy tunnel you need to go through to get to Ivy with their chosen fighters.<sup>2</sup> Then, after a rendition of the Ukrainian national anthem meant to inspire unity between all of the parties, the night's fights begin.

What follows is a brutal three-way brawl, with the NLG representative always being the wild card because, in their own words, “both sides represent the same corporate interests.”<sup>3</sup> Often times these fights are based on famous past GroupMe debates. Themed nights around Chick-fil-A, the mask mandates, and if the people who chanted about hanging the Vice President of the United

1 Many members of NLG reject the use of the word “violence,” preferring it to be called “political action.”

2 The Federalist Society, as a non-partisan org, does not participate.

3 NLG often targets ACS first because they find their “unreflective moral superiority” sickening.

States for not subverting democracy are at all reprehensible are just a sampling of the wonderful themes so far.

While the events are already highly regarded, the Common Law Grounds board believes that this is just the start of the club's eventual ascendancy to the top of the Law School club hierarchy. Its upcoming black tie crossover event “Brawling Darden in Spies Garden” has tickets starting at one and a half PILA grants. Less politically focused than its other fight nights, Common Law Grounds hopes that the resentment law students have for the business school will be enough to get a large turnout.



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## J. Breyer's Wife: Antifa Conspiracy

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Staff Editor



A bombshell report by the *Washington Post* reveals that wife of retiring Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, Joanna Hare, has been conspiring with members of the Antifa Super Soldier Program since the start of 2020 to destabilize America. These texts, courtesy of an anonymous colleague of Justice Breyer,<sup>1</sup> show how Hare demanded that Antifa do more to destroy American cities in the wake of George Floyd's death.

One of the standout exchanges of the twenty-nine texts cited in the *Post* article was between Mrs. Hare and Commander He/Him/His Snowflake of the 501st Antifa Stormtrooper Corps that took over Philadelphia later that month. Hare implored He/Him/His to make sure to avoid destroying any of the buildings holding the substitute ballots needed for the November election, and to leave no Chick-fil-A standing due to their chicken sandwiches being the only antidote to the Democrats' mind control serum. He/

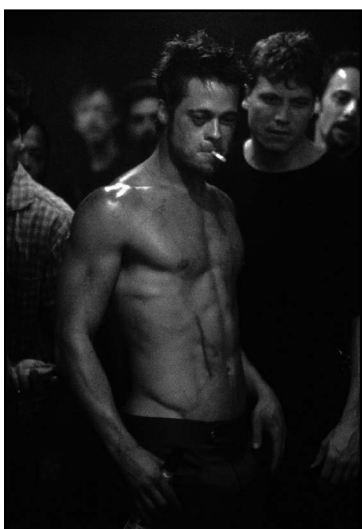
1 While the source was anonymous, the texts were accompanied by a 20-page concurrence arguing that Constitutional amendments should be incorporated through the Privileges or Immunities Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

Him/His said he would do his best, but that it would be difficult thanks to the 180 mandatory mental health days all Antifa soldiers need to take every year.

The most recent text conversation obtained by the *Washington Post* happened on January 4, where Hare conspired with Democratic insiders to have staffers pretend to be Trump supporters in a false flag operation to make it appear that Trump tried to overturn a democratically elected government. Longtime Democratic operatives Josh Hawley and Ted Cruz enthusiastically volunteered for the plan—knowing the Republican party would be unable to remain respected if its members were thought to have instigated a literal fascist takeover of the United States.

Despite the damning nature of the texts, the response around Capitol Hill has been rather muted. Minority Leader Mitch McConnell went on the record saying, “We have no doubt that Justice Breyer can remain an impartial member of the judiciary despite his wife's repeated attempts to overthrow our government. The line between someone's personal life and their professional one is exceptionally clear and we believe that the only person who can determine if Justice Breyer has a conflict of interest is Stephen himself.”

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Pictured: An Actual Image of the Fight Club Representative from Section A

# Study Shows NGSL Has "Biggest, Softest, Most Magnificent Balls in The World"

Jonathan Peterson '23  
Co-Executive Editor



A new study, published by the American Society for Testing and Materials<sup>1</sup> (ASTM), has revealed a remarkable new fact—The North Grounds Softball League (NGSL) officially has the biggest, softest, and most magnificent balls in the world.

This revelation comes after years of speculation on who truly held the title. Multiple parties have argued that they, in fact, were the owners of the biggest, softest, and most magnificent balls. The New England Patriots, the Cavaliers Basketball team, and finally, the residents of the Thomson House, all firmly believed that they were the owners of the BSMM balls.<sup>2</sup> However, the ATSM did more than just declare a victor—they definitively ranked the

1 <https://www.astm.org/>

2 Barristers United apparently felt confident enough in their balls to not enter the running. As such, the softness, magnificence, and magnitude of their balls have yet to be properly tested by science. Based on pure conjecture, I'd imagine they'd give NGSL a serious run for their money.

claimants.

In a shocking turn after their recent performance in the NIT, the Cavaliers managed to pull off an upset, landing themselves a second-place finish, albeit by a close margin. The Patriots were tight on their heels in third. Unfortunately for the Pats, however, deflate-gate really hurt the size-factor of their balls. Coming in dead last, the ATSM said, was Thomson House's "paltry balls." The ATSM concluded by saying, however, that given a few more years of research and development, the Thomson boys could certainly have some magnificent balls of their own to submit for consideration.

After the study was released, the school's community was ablaze with deans, professors, and students all fawning over the organization's incredible balls. And, while none of the faculty have officially come forward to remark on the study, a few have spoken up anonymously.

"Now listen," one faculty member said, "my husband takes good care of his things. His soccer balls? Pristine. His footballs? Immaculate. Sure, his golf balls are a little on the small side, and d\*mn are they hard. But he's certainly no slouch." At this point, the faculty member paused and looked around

furtively, making sure their husband wasn't within earshot. "But they're just noth-



Pictured Here: Phil Tonseth '22 gripping his magnificent balls

ing compared to those gaudy, yellow, *thicc* balls they've got in those sheds. I didn't know anything like those even existed before coming here. I didn't know they *could* exist."

In fact, individuals across the community have all reacted to the news differently. Those more well-adjusted folk who enjoy softball more for the drinking, camaraderie, and the opportunity to get outside merely continued on with their lives. The less-well-adjusted folks who never once set foot on a softball field during their time here<sup>3</sup> also continued life as normal, more because they couldn't

3 Looking at some of you, VLR.

be bothered to stay up to date on the study and no one figured it would be worth it to engage with them about it in the first place. On the other end of the spectrum of "less-well-adjusted folks," the softball fanatics have been trotting around the law school like they own the place ever since the release.<sup>4</sup> Finally, one dean was seen stuffing his pockets with softballs. The *Virginia Law Weekly* does not know why, nor does it wish to find out.

The *Law Weekly's* NGSL correspondent, Phil Tonseth, reached out to the organization with some questions regarding just what it does to get its balls so d\*mn soft, magnificent, and large. Apparently, quite a lot.

The first step, the organization said, is to sort through the balls you've purchased to find the cream of the crop. Only then do you move on to step two: the massage. New inductees spend at least 4 hours a week massaging individual balls until they're primed to perfection—it is only then that the true softness of their softballs begins to shine through. Next, NGSL lackeys wash their balls, first with hot water (to open the pores and reveal any impurities) and then with cold wa-

4 Is that really anything new though?

ter (to close everything back up). This step is crucial—too hot and you risk burning your balls, too cold and the shock will cause the softball to shrivel up into something resembling more of a yellowish, hard, prune. Finally, and most importantly, is the gentle foaming scrub. After the multi-temp washing, a final rinse is done, this time with water pulled directly from Thomas Jefferson's personal well. Then, a foaming scrub, the recipe for which is kept under lock and code in the NGSL shed at Copeley, is lathered onto the balls by at least three, but no more than five, new members, while two senior staffers oversee the process. It is this final phase that allows for the softness of the balls while also retaining their magnificent coloration, vivacity, and durability that we all know and love.

So, what's next for NGSL now that they've received this accolade? The answer to that is what you might expect: nothing. They've got a tried-and-true method, and they've assured us at the *Law Weekly* that they'll be sticking with it. We'll continue to receive the balls we know and love, with nary a change in sight.

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# Disgruntled Clerk Exposes Illicit SCOTUS Gambling Ring

Jackson Makanikeoe Grubbe '23  
Satire Editor



On Monday, March 28, the closely-kept secret of a SCOTUS gambling ring was exposed by T. Flint Quinn, a clerk for Chief Justice John Roberts. Quinn told reporters that an increasingly large portion of his work became dedicated to tracking bets among Justices and clerks. A bet on the recent case *United States v. Tsarnaev* pushed Quinn to inform media outlets. The Justices issued statements in response.<sup>1</sup>

Roberts and Alito bet \$20,000 over how many Justices would agree on the judgment. Justice Sotomayor oversaw the bet, setting the over-under at 6½. The outcome was 6-3, meaning Roberts had won and Alito had lost. After Roberts asked for the money, Alito challenged the bet, stating that he "didn't shake on sh\*t." In her statement, Justice Sotomayor said she "saw everything, and that was cold-blooded." She noted that it was "rather whack and uncharacteristic of Ol' Sammy to renege on a bet like that. He has always been a straight shooter."

1 Despite the Justices mostly agreeing and discussing overlapping concerns, they wrote separate statements.

Because of Alito's reluctance to pay, Roberts asked Quinn to collect the money. Quinn had other ideas. In front of other Justices, Quinn told Chief Justice Roberts that he "did not become a Supreme Court clerk to do someone's personal bidding." Roberts pulled Quinn aside and told him, "We understand that you're new, but that's how it works around



Pictured Here: An artist's rendition of the Gambling Ring based on Quinn's description.

here. We do the bidding of whatever Administration appointed us."

Quinn argues that gambling on legal outcomes injures judicial legitimacy because it creates financial conflicts of interest. In his statement, Chief Justice Roberts said, "In no way does the gambling ring compromise the legiti-

macy of the nation's highest Court." He stated that if the Court can survive (1) majority opinions describing why the Court has no jurisdiction but continuing to decide on the merits;<sup>2</sup> (2) the common practice of pretending to base decisions in case law while functionally gutting the cited precedent; (3) the fact that all but one Justice attended either Harvard Law or Yale

Law; and (4) the blatant politicization of judicial nomination hearings,<sup>3</sup> despite the Justices' job being to objectively apply the law without commitment to a desired outcome, then this Court can survive anything. Justice Barrett agreed, noting in her statement that "comparatively, this is small potatoes." Justice Gorsuch said, "We have to do *something* to make these cases fun." Justice Breyer stated that "betting increases the judiciary's total hype level, especially for those dry, procedural cases." Breyer noted that Ruth Bader Ginsburg was the only Justice in recent memory not to gamble, largely because she enjoyed civil procedure, around which most of the betting takes place. Justice Breyer continued, "Civil procedure—barf, am I right?" Justice Kagan addressed similar concerns, adding that "Quinn is high-key a narc for this."

2 This had been done as early as *Marbury v. Madison*, where the Court went out of its way to say "I am the law" after deciding that it did not have jurisdiction.

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3 Chief Justice Roberts was careful to note, however, that the Senate Republicans blocking Merrick Garland in 2016 because of a presidential election nine months away but later going on to confirm Justice Barrett eight days before the 2020 election was "so savage, like something Darth Vader might do, that it justifies the political move. Some tactics have such a high inherent swag factor that they do not raise legitimacy concerns."

In his statement, Justice Thomas said, "I do not understand all the brouhaha. It is deeply rooted in this Nation's history and tradition to play games with the law. Since this country's founding, American lawyers have done so. It is only appropriate that the federal judiciary work the same way." Justice Kavanaugh added that "for decades, people have played basketball above the Supreme Court. How serious can you expect us to be?"

The only thing all Justices could agree on is that they had no intention of shutting down the gambling ring.

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## Sudoku Solution

8	7	2	3	6	4	9	5	1
1	4	3	7	5	9	2	8	6
6	9	5	2	1	8	7	3	4
5	3	7	8	2	1	6	4	9
6	1	9	5	4	7	8	2	3
4	2	8	6	9	3	1	7	5
3	5	6	9	7	2	4	1	8
7	9	4	1	8	5	3	6	2
2	8	1	4	3	6	5	9	7



# LAW WEEKLY FEATURE: Court of Petty Appeals

The Court of Petty Appeals is the highest appellate jurisdiction court at UVA Law. The Court has the power to review any and all decisions, conflicts, and disputes that arise involving, either directly, indirectly, or tangentially, the Law School or its students. The Court comprises eight associate justices and one Chief Justice. Opinions shall be released periodically and only in the official court reporter: the Virginia Law Weekly. Please email a brief summary of any and all conflicts to [dl9uh@virginia.edu](mailto:dl9uh@virginia.edu)

## Comedy v. Libel Show 74 U.Va 21 (2022)

TONSETH, C. J. EMERITUS delivers the opinion of the court, in which CHENELLE, J., REYNA, J. HOLT, J., LAKE, C.J., SMITH, J., and BNINSKI, J. join.

BIRCH, J. DISSENTS.

KULKARNI, J. DISSENTS.

TONSETH C.J. emeritus, delivered the opinion of the court.

I.

Libel. This is both the defendant and the claim.<sup>1</sup> After being forced to sit through a droning, monotonous, and frankly, not funny, show that wasted precious hours that could have been spent at Bar Review, the entity known as “comedy” levied this complaint against the Libel Show. This claim posits that Libel acted with actual malice against public figures—the actors who ~attempted~ to be funny—by ruining both the actors’ and comedy’s reputation through clear and convincing evidence. Plaintiffs claim this action was not mere negligence, but calculated malice with intent to inflict grievous emotional damage on all of those students unfortunate enough to be duped into buying a ticket that was \$15 overpriced.<sup>2</sup> The Plaintiffs have beseeched this Court for punitive damages, a permanent injunction against all Libel participants from ever

1 You could argue that the claim should be slander, but you’d ruin the comedy aspect of this opinion.

2 For those lucky enough to have avoided Libel, the cost of the drinking ticket was \$15. The non-drinking ticket was only \$12, but those students deserved to at least make money for attending as they couldn’t drink during the show to try and immediately forget how bad it was.

telling a joke again, and to bar the admissions office from considering washed-up theater kids during the admissions process. As the *Law Weekly* views itself as the prime judge of comedy within UVA Law, it is only appropo that the Court granted cert.

II.

students who either helped write the act, the planted actors who were paid to laugh at certain parts of the show, or those who were too intoxicated to realize the bits weren’t actually that funny. This Court holds that the District Court did not abuse their discretion when they found for the plaintiffs, as

lives,<sup>4</sup> and the acts only added to the valuable public discourse of UVA Law. And, lastly, that any attempt to “silence” Libel, which is the longest running organization in the school, would have a deleteriously chilling effect on free speech and comedy. The Court shall address each defense in turn.

III.

Coloring this Court’s opinion, and my own personal judicial Phil-osophy<sup>5</sup> as an ardent originalist to the *Law Weekly’s* Constitution, this Court defaults to the first Petty Rule of Civil Procedure at all turns, “we do what we want.”<sup>6</sup> To answer the defendant’s first defense, i.e. the lack of falsity in Libel, the defendant has a point. The vast majority of the skits were based on real-life events. However, this misconstrues the libel claim before us. The claim is that Libel falsely advertised itself to be a comedy show, and thus committed libel by being unfunny. Moving on. This Court finds sympathy for the second defense proffered. For all of the parties who complained about potential sketches, attempted to cancel certain segments of the show, or threatened to boycott,

4 At least we have an abundance of silver spoons hanging around to use for the debutante ball later in the semester.

5 This is a dad joke you should have laughed at.

6 *Law Weekly v. CoPA Copiers* 369 U.Va 96 (2019).

this Court shames you. If y’all can’t take a joke now, wait until you see your social life as a BigLaw junior associate. Toughen up, buttercup. However, the veracity of this defense doesn’t rise to the clear and convincing standard to show that no malice occurred. True statements hurting people’s feelings, in a comedy show, should be funny, not just honest. Strike two. Only a pithy response is warranted for the final defense. The only chilling that would occur by upholding the District Court’s ruling in favor of the plaintiffs would be this majority’s ability to enjoy a cold beer after a hard day’s work. This Court isn’t “canceling” Libel for committing libel, rather just calling a spade a spade, or a snowflake. Be better Libel.

IV.

“What is essential is not that everyone shall speak, but that everything worth saying shall be said.”<sup>7</sup> Libel failed this aspirational goal through their shoddy production this year. While this Court holds that Libel must go on, those who volunteer for the writer’s room next year are ordered to attend improv classes, joke-creation seminars, and creativity colloquiums in order to present a show with attending next year. The show mustn’t succumb to mediocrity; we aren’t Georgetown here.

Mic. Drop.

7 Free speech theorist Alexander Meiklejohn.

COPA page 5

This case’s libel claim is directed specifically at one person, with the actors who participated in Libel as co-conspirators to the initial criminal conduct. The true criminal here is the Head Writer for Libel, who, interestingly enough, had half of the show written about them.<sup>3</sup> The District Court for Petty Appeals found that of the twenty-plus acts performed during the show, only three elicited laughs beyond those

3 Nepotism anyone?

while a 10% success rate for 3Ls reading for their second semester classes is something to cheer about, the bar does not equally extend to a 3L writing acts that are supposed to be funny.

In an amicus brief that was as confusing, unoriginal, and whiney as Libel itself, the Head Writer propositioned three defenses. First, that none of the skits, bits, or quips in Libel were false. Two, that those offended are snowflakes, K-JDs who had never been made fun of before in their “highly privileged”

## Faculty Quotes

**R. Hynes:** “I’m reminded of the Dean of Stanford Law, who decided to go back into private practice and promptly failed the bar. Embarrassing.”

**T. Nachbar:** “There were not a ton of questions yesterday, I guess because I am the picture of clarity.”


**M. Gulati:** “Every once in a while you get a student answer, and you just go ‘Man, I hate this person. Their answer is better than my draft.’”

**M. Collins:** “I’ve taught this problem for 14 years and someday I’ll teach it in an understandable way.”

**A. Coughlin:** “Good for you (As performed by Logan White ’23 in the Libel Show).”

**K. Faglioni:** “What’s a gender neutral alternative for ‘gentleman’s agreement’? A ladies agreement?”

Heard a good professor quote? Email us at [editor@lawweekly.org](mailto:editor@lawweekly.org)



# Virginia Law Weekly

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COPA

continued from page 4

BIRCH J., dissenting.

To hold Justice<sup>8</sup> Tonseth to their opinion would be to remove the Justice, myself, and half of the court's active members from the bench. Appearing in numerous sketches and writing another portion of the show, Justice Tonseth would be granting a permanent injunction on himself and his colleagues. It could be argued that this is his "last laugh" as he twinkles out of stardom and into the real world, but that would assume Justice Tonseth has ever been humorous.

Libel is not a case of libel. Libel is a case of slander. In what can only be imagined to be the height of humor in 1908, a show in which a bunch of people slander each other was given the name "Libel."<sup>9</sup> No party who was not a member of the writing room, cast, or crew, had open access to any written libel. If a party did have copies of the show in advance and did not acquire it by being a member of the aforementioned groups, they have only their own illicit actions for their libelous claim.<sup>10</sup>

8 You're not a Chief anything anymore. That's like Georgetown calling itself an "OG T-14."

9 Seriously, think about it. 114 years ago this joke probably made it all the way out to Oklahoma, the Forty-Sixth and newest state.

10 \*cough\* NGSL

While the peak of comedy in 1908 remains a staple today, an improper claim cannot be given merit for confusion between libel and slander. While the majority ignores harm for the purpose of comedy, I wish they could teach many of the aggrieved parties the same issue. I might not have learned much in Civil Procedure, but I did learn that the "laity" must be kept in line through strict pleading rules.

KULKARNI J., dissenting.

Libel was funny. Justice Tonseth is simply trying to milk this show for all it is worth. To him, all I can say is to ride off into retirement (read: the workplace) and leave determining what is funny to those of us who still have some time in the limelight. Personally, I think that Justice Tonseth is simply jealous of Justices Birch and Brown who, among other members of this paper, put a lot of effort into making people laugh. Despite exposing himself to three separate crowds and potentially breaking my back,<sup>11</sup> Justice Tonseth is insistent that Libel amounted to nothing. For shame dear colleague. For shame.

\*cough\*

11 This is not a joke. I am still in pain.

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# ANG at Darden

Will Holt '23  
 Reviews Editor



Call it ANG. Some days ago—never mind how long precisely—having little, or rather, no money in its purse, and nothing in particular to interest it on Law Grounds, ANG thought ANG would stroll about a little and see other parts of the University. Weariness in the eyes and frustration with book learning set ANG's compass

white columns of its destination, ANG sat on the sidewalk, weak-kneed after a whole two hundred strides. As ANG rested on ANG's haunches, however, high-pitched voices pierced the winds from the direction of the lawn. Panicking, the shy traveler dove for the shrubbery and exposed only an ear with which ANG could listen to the brewing conversation. A gaggle of newly admitted students sat in a circle, chattering about how they planned to represent their

into a pile of dust—safety at last. As expected, the rows of Bloomberg magazines and Tony Robbins books lay deserted. ANG let out a hoarse sigh of relief and staggered towards the middle of the vacant room. This was just what ANG needed: a hidden nook where no one would think to look. But those dreams persisted only briefly. A female voice bearing a muddled faux-European accent began to float through the halls. Such tones were unknown to ANG, whose prior travels had extended no further than the dumpster behind the Waffle House. ANG emerged from the library to investigate and saw a sign reading, "BUS-1001," taped onto an open lecture-hall door. Inside, *Inventing Anna* was playing on a massive screen, while a professor provided commentary regarding Julia Garner's performance and what she did to play such a compelling young business woman. This was the last test for ANG's nerves. ANG darted out of the building, down Massie Road, and back to ANG's dingy abode.

Traumatized from ANG's experience, ANG is glad to resume ANG's correspondence with the *Virginia Law Weekly*. ANG is not likely to change ANG's commentary as a result, but ANG did learn a lesson of sorts: The law school may be bizarre at times, but it must make more sense than whatever is going on next door.

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Pictured Here: ANG ventures out from Copeley Field to see what the Business School is all about.

due west—to Darden—where such ills exist only in the wispiest dreams of Master's candidates. Be sure, dear readers, not to mistake ANG's vagrant soul and hairy feet for a penchant for adventure; ANG is not a roving creature. But as it seems, ANG's wisdom fell prey to desperation, and the unexpected traveler emerged from ANG's trash heap to take the trek's first steps.

With knuckles dragging, ANG lumbered up Massie Road. Spying the postcard-famous

prospective MBAs on their CVs. Frightened by people with work experience, ANG continued to cower amongst the greenery until making an escape upon the eruption of a small skirmish over proper typeface.

ANG stood but a few yards from ANG's destination, and the prospect of encountering more enterprising young people aroused crushing anxiety. To minimize the chances of an encounter, ANG crawled through an open library window and

## HOT BENCH



Will McDermott '22  
 Interviewed by Dana Lake '23

**Will, thank you so much for sitting for The Hotbench! Let's get the basics out of the way: where are you from, and why are you in law school?**

Thanks for having me! I'm from Westchester County, New York (the suburbs of NYC). I'm in law school because I always felt like this career is where my skill set was best aligned. I naturally felt a calling to be an advocate for people. Even back in undergrad, whenever any of my friends had an issue with the administration, I was the one to draft their emails and strategize the best approach to achieve their desired relief.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

I'll be starting in the New York office of Kirkland & Ellis LLP.

**You've been writing for the Law Weekly since 1L—what made you want to join?**

The free Domino's every Monday was certainly a nice perk. Aside from that, it has always been nice having the inside scoop on all of the drama going on at the law school. The Law Weekly GroupMe is typically pretty tapped into all the happenings around North Grounds.

**My favorite article you've written is the brief but compelling call to action, A Modest Proposal: 2Ls Must Do Dandelion. Do you have a favorite article or column you've submitted?**

That was my favorite article as well. During 1L, I wrote an article about a Yankee game that I attended over fall break, which was also fun.

**Do you still think the class of 2023 should be forced into doing Dandelion? We'll be aged 3Ls hobbling around on stage.**

Absolutely. It's hard to wrap my head around how the class of 2023 could be okay with being the only class to not participate in such a glorious tradition. Y'all are certainly going to miss out on bonding with your own class and shared conversations with alumni forever. And it's not Covid's fault, a little coordination can get this done before you graduate. But the attitudes of vocal classmates will be influential, and it doesn't help to hear things like: "I don't want to do Dandelion because I only do what I want." — Paige Kennett '23.

**You're involved with a**

**few different groups here at the Law School. What are they, and what's your second-favorite organization?**

I've had the pleasure of serving as the Chief Financial Officer of Rivanna Investments this year. It has been great for bolstering my background for corporate transactional work. But more importantly, that role has provided me opportunities to mentor 1 and 2Ls and become more involved in the community.

**What Law School tradition do you think absolutely everyone needs to do at least once before they graduate?**

(Aside from Dandelion), everyone should take a professor out for a meal. Covid has restricted our ability to do this, but it is truly an awesome opportunity and can make for great memories. It is always interesting to see professors in a setting more casual than a classroom.

**Same question for Charlottesville as a whole. Have you discovered any hidden gems?**

The rooftop at the Graduate Hotel is one of the nicest bars in town and many people do not know about it.

**If you could go back to little oL Will and give him one piece of advice what would it be?**

There are many opportuni-

ties to have fun (aside from bar review and softball) through student organizations and on-grounds activities. While they might involve work, they can be the most rewarding experiences. For instance, this year I participated in the Transactional Law competition and the Libel Show. Both involved work outside of school but I have amazing memories from those experiences.

**You were a 1L when the Corona Virus started and everything moved online, and now in your last few weeks things are beginning to return to normal. How do you think that affected your Law School experience?**

Covid was a reminder to not take things like basic human contact for granted. In a way, I think it taught our class how to adapt when our entire realities are turned upside down. Similar to my response to the last question, Covid also motivated many of us to find creative ways to make human interactions that were not in person.

**Do you have a finals plan or are you fully 3LOL?**

At this point, just focusing on transitioning the Rivanna board to the 1 and 2Ls and doing my best to pass on my 3L wisdom.

**Did you know there is a Law firm called McDermott, Will and Emery? It makes searching for you online difficult.**

Ugh, I know. It was one of

the only firms that I never considered, would be way too confusing.

**Lighting Round!**

**Favorite word:**  
 Loophole

**Type of weather:**  
 Spring

**Favorite food:**  
 Pasta

**How do you take your coffee:**

With whole milk, maybe a splash of chocolate syrup

**Favorite case you've studied:**

Dodge v. Ford. Henry Ford's insistence that he "can't keep prices down" is inspiring. So strong to his convictions, even though it hurt his ability to win the case.

**Any professors you want to give a shout out to:**

Prof. Jim Donovan. If you're lucky enough to get into his class, absolutely take it.

Prof. Peter Lyons. It was great learning from a seasoned practitioner.

**Any last words:**

Some of my best advice, in law school and in life, is to only root your opinions of people in your actual personal interactions with them.

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# NGSL Goes Public: Astonishes Legal World

Phil Tonseth '22  
Former EIC



In an absolutely astonishing move destined to shake up the legal market for years to come, the North Grounds Softball League (NGSL) officially filed paperwork with Student Affairs to become a publicly traded organization within the Law School. In a move that was certainly made in order to raise capital to replace their dwindling budget,<sup>1</sup> NGSL is attempting to claim their turf and formally establish dominance amongst other organizations on a scale that has never been seen before. While the details of what exactly will be disclosed in the initial public offering still need to be hashed out, our investment analysts at the *Law Weekly* have been able to substantiate a few of the rumors floating around North Grounds. First and foremost, NGSL is willing to open their books to investors—mostly. There will not be a complete breakdown of the itemized

budget,<sup>2</sup> but there will be a list of the organization's members, how much the organization receives in direct donations from various (illicit) firms across the world, and how much of that money is wasted on Fireball and PBR. Second, NGSL is planning on offering 40% of their private shares to the public, even if those are non-voting shares. Our investors are worried that this distinction will make the shares as valuable as a Russian Ruble, but market volatility could prove them wrong. Unfortunately, NGSL has put its foot down in one way. By going public, that does not mean their membership is open to the public. They are still planning on keeping their selection process a secret, but after the Libel show, I think we know how that happens anyway.<sup>3</sup>

In drafting this piece, the  
2 A lot of their dealers made NGSL sign NDA's before agreeing to contract with them, shame.

3 Libel did leave out the goat sacrifice that occurs yearly at the selection event for new members, mainly because the custodial staff kindly requested to not have to clean blood off the curtains in Caplin Auditorium.

*Law Weekly* was discreetly contacted by the Secret Seven, who offered a warning to the NGSL Executive Board, "[s]tep one toe out of line, or onto Main Grounds, and the Seven will work with the hacking group 'Anonymous' to ensure your character and fitness tests fail due to your continued use of Trump sponsored softballs." I'm not sure if NGSL holds January 6<sup>th</sup> as a national holiday, but based on their ball usage and sponsorship, I'll leave that question for the audience to ponder. Furthering this threat, both the Illuminati and Skull and Bones, through the mafia, advised against going public. That leads to moles, they said, which leads to someone getting offed, and ultimately, going to jail for tax fraud. Knowing that NGSL likely doesn't have the cleanest books, this seems like a warning to be heeded.

While there are multiple concerns to be accounted for with this IPO, the move is sure to vault NGSL up in the US News rankings for top secret societies. Let's hope it doesn't tank, just like the administration's reputation following their consistent waffling on COVID protocols.

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1 Weird how nobody wants to donate to an exclusive, "secret" society, amirite?

## Student Groups Debut New Mission Statements

Guest Submission

Deans Goluboff and Davies have recently announced that, after some discussion with the executive boards of the UVA Law student groups, many will change their mission statements to better reflect their organization's true mission. A selection are presented here.

**Lone Star Lawyers** is now dedicated to only catering to (and eating at/reviewing) establishments with single star reviews on Yelp, Google, et cetera. They also are only allowed to leave one star reviews.

**Heartland Hoos** is taking a new look at problems facing the heart and land and will be focusing on the intersection between cardiovascular health and environmental and land use rights. (Rumors have it Professor Schragger will be supervising). They wanted to clarify that their work will be related solely to land; nautical issues and riparian rights will not be tolerated or considered, and air is not their problem.

**First Generation Professionals** is renaming itself to "first generation at UVA Law" professionals, because there aren't enough first generation professionals at UVA and they want more members for funding.

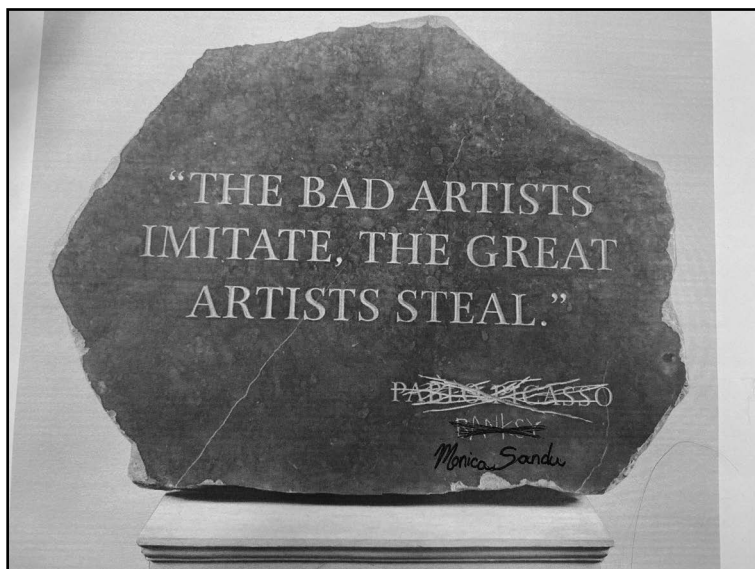
**NGSL** has currently entered a lockout with its players, and the season will be postponed until an agreement is reached.

**National Lawyers Guild**, after watching *Dune*, has decided to shroud themselves in secrecy, like another famous Guild, and are now hoarding all forms of spices for some undetermined aim—we hope it's delicious!

**Law Republicans** and **Law Democrats** did not provide any information as to their new plans, but assured us that whatever it was, the other group did it first or was at fault. And ACS and the Federalist Society refused to attend, since they thought the other would show up. On a related note, Common Law Grounds has given up on its initial mission and is now a coffee-lovers group.

**First Year Council** could not be reached, as all representatives insisted they "felt like 2Ls now" and had no comment on the future of the organization.

## Cartoon



## Sudoku

7	6				4		8	
	9	3	5			4		
	1			7				3
5			3					2
	2							1
	4				8			5
4				1				9
		2			7	3	4	
	5		4				7	8

## The Docket

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	COST	FOOD?
<b>WEDNESDAY – March 30</b>				
11:30 – 13:00	BLSA Coffee and Networking Reception	Caplin Pavilion and Spies Garden	Free	☺
11:30	And All the Students Said, "Amen": Religious Liberty Rights in Schools	Purcell Reading Room	Free	☺
11:40	An Update on the Russia-Ukraine Conflict	Brown 105	Free	☹
17:30	Barney Wilson on Risk Management	WB 104	Free	☺
18:00	Protecting Privacy for Equality: A Conversation with Legal Scholar Scott Skinner-Thompson	Webinar	Free	☹
<b>THURSDAY – March 31</b>				
16:00	A Lawyer's Role in the Tech World	Caplin Pavilion	Free	☺
17:30 – 19:00	Burden of Proof: Building a Case to Become an Assistant United States Attorney	Zoom	Free	☹
<b>FRIDAY – April 1</b>				
11:00 – 19:00	50 Years of Title IX: Toward a Title IX for All	Caplin Auditorium	Free	☺
12:00 – 13:00	Life After Alston	Caplin Pavilion	Free	☺
<b>MONDAY – April 4</b>				
10:00 – 16:00	Public Interest Law Association Hornbook/Clearance Sale	Brown Lounge 2	Books for sale	☹
<b>TUESDAY – April 5</b>				
10:00 – 16:00	Public Interest Law Association Hornbook/Clearance Sale	Brown Lounge 2	Books for sale	☹